

## Screening Criteria for Excising Excessive Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue (including lipectomy and abdominoplasty) (CPT codes 15831 – 15839)

### Description:

The excising of excessive skin tissue is the surgical resection of redundant skin and fat in the abdomen (15831), thigh (15832), leg (15833), hip (15834), buttocks (15835), arms (15836), forearm and hand (15837), submental fat pad (15838), and other areas (15839) following massive weight loss.

Cosmetic surgery to reshape the normal structure of the body or to enhance a patient's appearance is **not** a Medicaid benefit.

All cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

### Indications:

Resection of redundant skin and fat folds is medically indicated if recurring skin infections (unresponsive to conservative management) are present, recurring back pain, and interference with ambulation or personal hygiene. All conservative treatments must have been attempted and **documented** for at least 6 months before medical necessity is determined.

### Documentation Requirements:

1. Justification for the resection of skin and fat redundancy following massive weight loss should be documented by the **referring physician** and surgeon in the history and physical.
2. The duration of symptoms of at least 6 months and the lack of success of other therapeutic measures.
3. Photographs must be submitted to document pre-operative conditions.

This procedure is contraindicated for, but not limited to, individuals with the following conditions:

- Severe cardiovascular disease
- Severe coagulation disorders
- Pregnancy

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Signature of Medical Director

Effective Date